

Camp in the field near, Greenville, Tenn.

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1863.

My Dear Mother

Thank God I was  
last night once more permitted to hear your  
warning voice through a letter directing me  
still in the true path. I suppose before this  
time Lucy has recd the letter I wrote her at  
Cumberland Gap. I recd Lucys letter at the Gap.  
Last <sup>night</sup> I recd yours and P.s. I was very glad to hear  
that you both are enjoying ~~such~~ as good health as  
you are. We arrived here after a five days march from  
the Gap. The 1<sup>st</sup> day we marched 25 miles passing  
through Sawell which has been a very pretty  
town but was burnt by Bragg, that night we  
marched until ten o'clock many of the boys fell out  
~~down~~ before we halted and did <sup>not</sup> catch up until  
two, or three days. Next day we crossed the Clinch  
mountains & the Flint & Holston rivers,  
we made but 14 miles. Next day we passed  
through Morristown and camped this side of the  
place. There we actually did hear the Car again.

We were the next day ordered to Bulls Gap expecting to find a few lousy Rebs to whip but not so, they had commenced falling <sup>back</sup>. Next <sup>day</sup> the engagement took place, but we had no share in it, we were ordered to hold a position in the rear. I suppose the papers call it the Blue Springs skirmish. Our loss was 6 killed, and 53 wounded.

The rebel loss is not certainly known.

The day after the engagement we marched over the battle field we saw one dead Reb still unburied, shot in the back like all cowards.

That night we marched near to our present camping ground. Next morning the Col awakened us, and told us to boil our meat as we positively had to leave at six o'clock.

But the order ~~it~~ was countermanded, and we went into camp. Well here we are near the home of Andy Johnson. Camped in sight of the Iron mountains of North Carolina within in twelve miles of the North Carolina line.

This is the very poorest part of East Tenn. There is scarcely nothing here to forage.



I suppose you have the same idea that I had  
that nearly all the people here are loyal but  
the Secesh are nearly five to one.

We are near the Knoxville & Richmond R. R.

I wish you would please send me the returns  
of the election. It is of no use to send papers  
to us as they will be thrown out.

Our camp church is still increasing in  
interest, and numbers. We know not when  
we will be ordered from here before long we  
suppose. Give my love to all inquiring  
friends, and keep a Benjamin's portion for  
yourselves. May a kind Father protect us  
all, and bring us together again in peace  
is the prayer of  
Ransom.

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